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From: Sarah

Sent: Thur 9/1/2016 8:23:07 PM

Subject: It's back! Lower Passaic River UWFP Bi-monthly Bulletin

Dear Partners,

Back from its summer hiatus, please find below the Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership bi-monthly newsletter with events, grants, and resources.

Have something you'd like added to the next newsletter or a contact for the mailing list? Please email me by Tuesday, September 13th.

Best,

Sarah

Events

Today, September 1st, 7:30 PM. The Passaic River – 81 Miles of History. Join Great Swamp

Watershed Alliance and the Long Hill Historical society for a presentation by Phil Jaeger about the history of the river from Mendham to Kearny. The presentation will be held at the [Long Hill First Aid Squad Building](#).

September 4th 12 pm – SPARK friends of Riverbank Park is holding the 7th **Annual Rubber Ducky race** between Somme and Van Buren streets in Newark. Entries are 5\$/duck. First place wins a Kindle Fire donated by the Ironbound Business Improvement District and 2nd and 3rd places win dinner for two at Spanish Tavern and Vasca, respectively. More details [here](#).

September 7th, 6:30 PM. Broad Street Neighborhood Association is hosting a **riverfront North of 280 development meeting** at the Fountain of Salvation Christian, 191 Mt. Pleasant Ave, between Gouverneur and 4th Ave. Officials from the city of Newark Office of Economic Development, the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC), and staff from the James Corner, Field Operations will discuss the design of the riverfront between Clay Street and 4th Avenue. A light dinner will be served and children are welcome to attend.

September 8th, 6 PM The Lower Passaic River Superfund Community Advisory Group is meeting at St. James Church. Agenda to be announced soon – email [Sarah](#), Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Ambassador, or Doug Sarno, CAG facilitator if would like to be added to the CAG mailing list.

Grants and Resources by Topic

Community development

September 6th - The Department of Education (ED) announced its 2016 [Promise Neighborhoods](#) grant competition — The competition will award \$30 million to up to five organizations to provide their communities with a coordinated, comprehensive suite of services and school supports aimed at improving the outcomes for students and their families. The program is part of ED's continued commitment to support locally-designed initiatives to revitalize the country's most disadvantaged communities. More information on the program, including a full list of past grantees, is available on the [Promise Neighborhoods website](#).

September 26th - Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation: Community Partners – - Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation focus giving efforts on K-12 public/charter education and community improvement projects. These community improvement projects are high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements. There are two grant programs, Lowe's Toolbox for Education and Lowe's Community Partners. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Department of Energy's SolSmart Program Technical Assistance - SolSmart is a national recognition and a no-cost technical assistance program for local governments designed to drive greater solar deployment and help make it possible for even more American homes and businesses to access affordable and renewable solar energy to meet their electricity needs. Though the SolSmart team seeks to designate 300 communities before September 2018, there is no specific timeline for communities working toward achieving designation. It will depend on

each community's starting point, staff availability, goals, etc. SolSmart experts will design personalized action plans for communities that outline a path to designation and a rough timeline. SolSmart is federally funded for a three-year period, but it is expected that the designation will persist beyond this timeframe. Details can be [found here](#).

Environmental research

September 30th Graduate Research Challenge on Wetlands—sign up by September 30, 2016 – projects due by January 13, 2017 - This challenge for graduate level students is an opportunity to use data from the [National Wetland Condition Assessment \(NWCA\)](#) to conduct scientific research and analysis. The Campus Research Challenge encourages participants to use the NWCA dataset on sources of stress to wetlands, and explore effective ways to reduce such stress to protect, sustain, and restore the ecological health of the Nation's wetlands. EPA will award up to \$30,000, including a Grand Prize of \$5,000 and additional merit awards. [Click here](#) for additional information.

October 20th - National Science Foundation Environmental Sustainability Program –The goal of the Environmental Sustainability program is to promote sustainable engineered systems that support human well-being and that are also compatible with sustaining natural (environmental) systems. These systems provide ecological services vital for human survival. Research efforts supported by the program typically consider long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. The program supports green, ecological, and earth system engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions. [Click here](#) for additional information. **(give to Rutgers)**

Other

October 14th - NOAA Marine Debris Assessment & Removal — This opportunity provides funding to support locally-driven, marine debris assessment and removal projects that will benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and NOAA trust resources. Projects awarded through this grant competition implement on-the-ground marine debris removal activities, with priority for those targeting medium- large-scale debris, including derelict fishing gear. There is also a secondary priority for projects that conduct post-removal habitat monitoring to assess the beneficial impacts of debris removal. Typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000. Additional information [can be found here](#).

March 1, 2017 - Presidential Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) program application -- Applications now being accepted. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement, through recognizing outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The award celebrates student leadership in protecting the environment and building a livable, sustainable global community. For more information, please click [here](#).

Resources

Engaging Elected Officials in Urban Waters Work—This recorded webinar offers guidance, tips, and successful examples of engaging elected officials in urban waters work. Presenters include: Sven-Erik Kaiser, U.S. EPA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations; Keely Monroe, Alliance for Justice; and Rick Magder, Groundwork Hudson Valley. View webinar [here](#).

EJSCREEN Webinar Recorded Video—This video gives an overview presentation of EJSCREEN, EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool. It guides viewers through some background on the development of EJSCREEN, the different datasets used in the tool, and EJSCREEN maps and reports. View webinar [here](#).

NOAA Releases Updated Climate Explorer Tool—NOAA, along with partners, recently released the updated Climate Explorer. The tool offers downloadable maps, graphs, and data tables of historical and projected climate variables, down to the county level. [Check Out the Updated Tool](#).

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Resources: Climate Change Impacts and Adaptive Strategies—A recent webinar from The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) highlighted two climate-related projects funded through the Council. The webinar provides a brief overview of NUCFAC and its national research agenda, results from an Atlanta study of the common risk factors associated with transmittal of West Nile Virus, and a new workbook designed to help communities manage and use their urban forest resources to mitigate the impacts of climate change. More information is [here](#).

Our Water, Our Future: State of River and Watershed Protection 2016 Trends Report—The [2016 Trends Report](#) is the first national report of its kind. Included in this report is important information about the diversity of the river and watershed community in the United States. The report stresses the need for river and watershed protection efforts to reflect the interests and the diversity of the communities served. Additional findings in the report focus on current conditions of our rivers, threats, and opportunities.

7 Cities Transforming Their Rivers from Blights to Beauties—Los Angeles and other cities wants to rethink its river. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that Gruen Associates, Mia Lehrer + Associates, and Oyler Wu would be designing the last twelve miles of the Los Angeles River Valley Bikeway and Greenway. And LA isn't the only metropolis looking to reclaim its once-mocked waterway. Cities around the world are realizing that water can be a cultural and

recreational asset. Read the full article [here](#).

Sarah Lerman-Sinkoff

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